

Message Text

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46

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-11 COME-00 INT-08 TRSE-00 AID-20

OPIC-12 XMB-07 STR-08 OMB-01 EUR-25 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 DRC-01 /117 W
----- 129735

R 181305Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0912

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: OTRA ECON JO US

SUBJ: COPPER EXPLOITATION IN JORDAN

REF: A. AMMAN 1206

B. STATE 047971

1. SITUATION INVOLVED IN COPPER EXPLOITATION STILL NOT VERY CLEAR. AS REPORTED REF A, WE DO KNOW THAT GOJ HAS SIGNED A LETTER OF INTENT WITH THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT DE RESEARCH GEOLOGIQUE AND GEOPHYSIQUE. JUST WHAT THIS LETTER OF INTENT COVERS IS NOT ENTIRELY CLEAR. IT IS OUR IMPRESSION, HOWEVER, THAT, INTER ALIA, IT INCLUDES PILOT PLANT OPERATION OF SOME SORT WHICH WOULD FORM BASIS FOR JUDGING LONG TERM ECONOMICS OF COPPER EXPLOITATION HERE. NPC PRESIDENT SALEM TOLD AMBASSADOR PICKERING THAT HE REGARDED THIS PILOT PHASE AND RELATED ANALYSES EVENTUALLY AS FEASIBILITY STUDY AFTER WHICH DETERMINATION WOULD BE MADE AS TO HOW BEST TO PROCEED. AT THAT STAGE, ALSO, GOJ WOULD ENTERTAIN PROPOSALS FOR DEVELOPING THE COPPER FROM ADDITIONAL COMPANIES OR OTHER GOVERNMENTS. IF THIS IS CORRECT, COMMITMENT TO THE FRENCH FOR THIS INITIAL STAGE WOULD NOT PRECLUDE AMERICAN FIRMS FROM BEING CONSIDERED ONCE THE FEASIBILITY/PILOT PLANT STAGE WAS COMPLETED. ON THE OTHER HAND, OTHER OBSERVERS HERE

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(INCLUDING C. STRIBLING SNODGRASS, PETROLEUM

ADVISOR TO CROWN PRINCE HASSAN) ARGUE THAT IF FRENCH DO PROCEED WITH THE FIRST PHASE AS PROPOSED, DISLODGING THEM FROM THE NEXT STEP WOULD BE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT, IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE.

2. FYI ONLY: WITH REF TO EXXON INTEREST, OUR IMPRESSION HERE IS THAT EXXON IS CONSIDERABLY MORE INTERESTED THAN IS IMPLIED BY GREENWALD COMMENTS REPORTED REF A. WELL-PLACED JORDANIAN WHO IS ACTING ON EXXON'S BEHALF SHOWED US CABLE PURPORTEDLY FROM BEIRUT AGENT IN DIRECT CONTACT WITH EXXON. CABLE AUTHORIZED LOCAL MAN TO NEGOTIATE ON BEHALF OF EXXON. CABLE ALSO STATED THAT EXXON IS VERY INTERESTED IN COPPER CONCESSION IN JORDAN. THE LOCAL BUSINESSMAN ALSO REPORTED THAT EXXON IS SENDING A LETTER TO THE HEAD OF THE NATURAL RESOURCES AUTHORITY (NRA) ADVISING HIM OF EXXON'S INTEREST AND THEIR WILLINGNESS TO SEND A REPRESENTATIVE TO AMMAN FOR FURTHER DISCUSSIONS. WE PLAN TO INVESTIGATE THIS MATTER FURTHER WITH NRA AND WILL CABLE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WHEN OBTAINED. GRAHAM

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COPPER, EXPLOITATION (NATURAL RESOURCES), BUSINESS FIRMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974AMMAN01428
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: AMMAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 AUG 2002 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <05-Sep-2002 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
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EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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